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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Bosnia and Herzegovina, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 16 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina issued by the European Community and its member States on 16 April 1992

The Community and its member States, recalling their statement of 11 April, strongly condemn the violence that is now spreading in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the hands of various armed elements with the support of regular forces, and in particular of the JNA. They call upon all parties concerned to strictly abide by the cease-fire agreed upon. All sides should refrain from any measures, such as the sending of military reinforcements into Bosnia and Herzegovina, that can only serve to exacerbate the situation. In particular, they urge the Belgrade authorities to do all in their power to prevent violent activities by Serbian irregulars.

The Community and its member States, recalling that they will never accept a de facto situation created by violence, condemn the use of force, intimidation and provocations perpetrated by nationalist extremists, as well as any attempts from outside to destabilize Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parties responsible for such actions will be held internationally accountable for their acts.

They support the Bosnian Government in its efforts to bring about a peaceful solution by respecting the rights of all ethnic and national groups in that Republic and expect all parties to pursue, without delay, the negotiations on the future constitutional arrangements under the auspices of the Peace Conference.

The Community and its member States call on all parties concerned and on all republics - in particular on Serbia and Croatia - to fully support the mission of the personal envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Cyrus Vance, to the area. They demand the reopening of the airport of Sarajevo for humanitarian relief. They expect all sides to allow a safe and unrestricted access by the ECMM in the dispatch of its duty.

The Community and its member States, while reaffirming their wish for the Security Council of the United Nations to remain actively involved in this question, have brought the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in concert with other members of that conference.